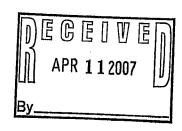




Charlie Crist Governor

April 9, 2007

Ms. Lisa Rawlins, Bureau Chief Florida Center for Health Information and Policy Analysis Agency for Health Care Administration 2727 Mahan Drive, MS #16 Tallahassee, FL 32308



#### Dear Ms. Rawlins:

Please accept this letter as an expression of support from the Florida Department of Health for the Agency for Health Care Administration's application to the Federal Communications Commission for funding of costs to deploy a regional dedicated broadband health care network. Our organization is pleased to be a part of the state's effort to partner with other state agencies and with the private sector on a federal funding opportunity that will extend vital telecommunications and information services to rural hospitals, clinics, and physicians. Providing broadband connectivity will allow rural hospitals to communicate electronically with providers in urban centers, transfer medical documents, and support their ability to fully participate in the developing Florida Health Information Network.

I am pleased to commit the resources of my organization to advise the project and encourage wider provider adoption of broadband information services, along with a consortium made up of representatives from the Agency for Health Care Administration, the Governor's Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development Rural Economic Development Initiative, Children's Medical Services, the Office of Rural Health in the Department of Health, Florida State University College of Medicine, MyFloridaNet in the Department of Management Services, the Florida Hospital Association, the Florida Medical Association, Florida Department of Elder Affairs, Opportunity Florida, Florida Great Northwest, the City of Port St. Joe, WorkForce Plus, Enterprise Florida, North Florida Medical Centers, Federally Qualified Health Centers, the Community Health Informatics Organization, the Big Bend Regional Health Information Organization, Florida LambdaRail, and Progress Energy.

Telemedicine could very well play a central role in the transformation of health care through health information technology. The ability of video teleconferencing services to reduce geographical barriers to diagnosis and treatment parallels the development of health information exchange networks that will deliver medical records in a secure, timely manner. By coming together to interconnect Florida's rural hospitals, our coalition is taking a first step toward helping all Floridians benefit from the development of telecommunication-based health care.

We are committed to serving as a key partner in the project that will result from the application being submitted by the agency and the provider consortium. The experience of our



Charlie Crist Governor

JR Harding Ed.D. Chairperson

Donna Loggie Vice Chairperson

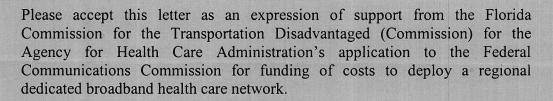
Lisa M. Bacot

Executive Director

April 17, 2007

Lisa Rawlins, Bureau Chief State Center for Health Statistics Agency for Health Care Administration 2727 Mahan Drive, MS #16 Tallahassee, FL 32308

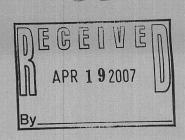
Dear Ms. Rawlins:



The Commission is pleased to be a part of the state's effort to partner with other state agencies and with the private sector on a federal funding opportunity that will extend vital telecommunications and information services to rural hospitals, clinics, and physicians. Providing broadband connectivity will allow rural hospitals to communicate electronically with providers in urban centers, transfer medical documents, and supports their ability to fully participate in the developing Florida Health Information Network.

The mission of our organization is to provide quality, efficient, and costeffective transportation services to transportation disadvantaged individuals. Rural communities lack the transportation options that are more readily available in urban areas. A regional dedicated broadband health care network may potentially reduce the need for long distance medical trips. This could allow for a reduction in overall transportation costs or a reallocation of transportation funds into other critical areas of needed service.

I am pleased to commit the expertise of my organization to advise the project and encourage wider provider adoption of broadband information services, along with a consortium made up of representatives from the Agency, Governor Charlie Crist and the Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI), Florida Medical Association, Big Bend Rural Health Network, Children's Medical Services and the Office of Rural Health in the Department of Health, Florida State University College of Medicine, MyFloridaNet in the Department of Management Services, the Florida Hospital Association, North Florida Medical Centers, Florida Association of Community Health Centers, the Community Health Informatics Organization, the Big Bend Regional Health Information Organization, Nemours and Florida LambdaRail. REDI is a proactive effort involving more than twenty state and regional agencies and organizations that help rural communities resolve issues affecting their



community and economic viability. REDI provides assistance to 32 rural counties in Florida.

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We are committed to serving as a key partner in the project that will result from the application being submitted by the Agency and the provider consortium. The experience of our organization is a strong addition to our multi-stakeholder collaboration and will help to achieve a sustainable outcome.

Thank you for initiating this effort which will strengthen the information infrastructure of our rural communities and enable our organization to better fulfill its mission.

Sincerely

Executive Director



STATE OF FLORIDA

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

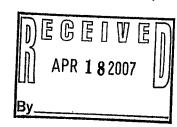
"Dedicated to making Florida a better place to call home"

CHARLIE CRIST Governor

THOMAS G. PELHAM Secretary

April 3, 2007

Lisa Rawlins, Bureau Chief Florida Center for Health Information and Policy Analysis Agency for Health Care Administration 2727 Mahan Drive, MS #16 Tallahassee, FL 32308



Dear Ms. Rawlins:

Please accept this letter as an expression of support from the Department of Community Affairs for the Agency for Health Care Administration's application to the Federal Communications Commission for funding of costs to deploy a regional dedicated broadband health care network. Our organization is pleased to be a part of the state's effort to partner with other state agencies and with the private sector on a federal funding opportunity that will extend vital telecommunications and information services to rural hospitals, clinics, and physicians. Providing broadband connectivity will allow rural hospitals to communicate electronically with providers in urban centers, transfer medical documents, and supports their ability to fully participate in the developing Florida Health Information Network.

I am pleased to commit the resources of my organization to advise the project and encourage wider provider adoption of broadband information services, along with a consortium made up of representatives from the Agency, Governor Charlie Crist and the Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI), Florida Medical Association, Big Bend Rural Health Network, Children's Medical Services and the Office of Rural Health in the Department of Health, Florida State University College of Medicine, MyFloridaNet in the Department of Management Services, the Florida Hospital Association, the Florida Medical Association, North Florida Medical Centers, Florida Association of Community Health Centers, the Community Health Informatics Organization, the Big Bend Regional Health Information Organization, Nemours and Florida LambdaRail. REDI is a proactive effort involving more than twenty state and regional agencies and organizations that help rural communities resolve issues affecting their community and economic viability. REDI provides assistance to 32 rural counties in Florida.

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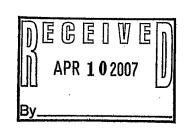
2555 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-2100
Phone: 850.488.8466/Suncom 278.8466 FAX: 850.921.0781/Suncom 291.0781
Internet address: <a href="http://www.dca.state.fl.us">http://www.dca.state.fl.us</a>

## North Florida Medical Centers, Inc.

535 John Knox Road • Tallahassee, FL 32303 • Phone (850) 385-4494 • Fax (850) 298-6050

Monday, April 09, 2007

Lisa Rawlins, Bureau Chief Florida Center for health Information and Policy Analysis Agency for Health Care Administration 2727 Mahan Drive, MS #16 Tallahassee, FL 32308



Dear Ms. Rawlins:

Please accept this letter as an expression of support from North Florida Medical Centers, Inc. (NFMC) for the Agency for Health Care Administration's application to the Federal Communications Commission for funding of costs to deploy a regional dedicated broadband health care network. Our organization is pleased to be a part of the state's effort to partner with other state agencies and with the private sector on a federal funding opportunity that will extend vital telecommunications and information services to rural hospitals, clinics, and physicians. Providing broadband connectivity will allow rural hospitals to communicate electronically with providers in urban centers, transfer medical documents, and supports their ability to fully participate in the developing Florida Health Information Network.

I am pleased to commit the resources of my organization to advise the project and encourage wider provider adoption of broadband information services, along with a consortium made up of representatives from the Agency for Health Care Administration, the Governor's Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development Rural Economic Development Initiative, Children's Medical Services, the Office of Rural Health in the Department of Health, Florida State University College of Medicine, MyFloridaNet in the Department of Management Services, the Florida Hospital Association, the Florida Medical Association, Florida Department of Elder Affairs, Opportunity Florida, Florida Great Northwest, The City of Port St. Joe, WorkForce Plus, Enterprise Florida, North Florida Medical Centers, Federally Qualified Health Centers, the Community Health Informatics Organization, the Big Bend Regional Health Information Organization, Florida LambdaRail, and Progress Energy.

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is taking a first step toward helping all Floridians benefit from the development of telecommunication-based health care.

We are committed to serving as a key partner in the project that will result from the application being submitted by the Agency and the provider consortium. The experience of our organization is a strong addition to our multi-stakeholder collaboration and will help to achieve a sustainable outcome. NFMC's mission is to improve access to quality healthcare for the underserved and to increase stakeholder value with a motivated and prepared workforce. Funding for proposal will allow NFMC to improve access to more underserved patients for primary care and specialty care. We have been serving patients in the panhandle of Florida in rural communities for twelve years.

Thank you for initiating this effort which will strengthen the information infrastructure of our rural communities and enable our organization to better fulfill its mission.

Sincerely,

Mr. Joel Montgomery, MA, MHA, FACHE

President, Chief Executive Officer North Florida Medical Centers, Inc.



April 12, 2007

Lisa Rawlins, Bureau Chief Florida Center for health Information and Policy Analysis Agency for Health Care Administration 2727 Mahan Drive, MS #16 Tallahassee, FL 32308

Dear Ms. Rawlins:

This letter confirms the support of Baptist Health Care, Inc. for the Agency for Health Care Administration's application to the Federal Communications Commission requesting funding to deploy a dedicated broadband network for healthcare in Northwest Florida.

Broadband connectivity will enable rural hospitals, clinics, and physicians to communicate electronically and facilitate timely and secure exchange of medical data. Broadband will enhance the ability of healthcare providers to participate in regional health information networks (RHIOs) and the Florida Health Information Network (FHIN).

We will use our resources to support this project and encourage greater use of healthcare telecommunications across Northwest Florida. Our organization will benefit from reliable broadband connection with affiliates in Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton counties to enable use of videoconferencing and telemedicine for patients and staff in remote and rural areas.

As you know, Baptist Health Care is a leading participant in the Northwest Florida RHIO project known as Escambia Health Information Network, which will be a key link in the statewide FEIN system. Better broadband coverage will facilitate development of the regional health information networks in the Florida Panhandle and enable providers to collect and exchange patient records in a secure and timely manner.

We are pleased to join the consortium of state agencies, healthcare providers, and public enterprise seeking funding to develop this network. By working to connect Florida's rural and urban hospitals, this group is taking an important step to helping all Floridians benefit from modern health care. The consortium includes representation from key stakeholders, including: the Agency for Health Care Administration, Governor's Tourism Office, Rural Economic Development Initiative, Children's Medical Services, Florida Office of Rural Health, FSU College of Medicine, Florida Department of Management Services

(MyFloridaNet), Florida Hospital Association, Florida Medical Association, Florida Department of Elder Affairs, Opportunity Florida, Florida's Great Northwest, City of Port St. Joe, WorkForce Plus, Enterprise Florida, North Florida Medical Centers, Federally Qualified Health Centers in Florida, Community Health Informatics Organization, Escambia Health Information Network, Big Bend Regional Health Information Organization, Florida LambdaRail, and Progress Energy.

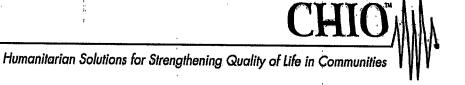
Our organization has significant experience in strategic planning, community collaboration, and technological innovation, and we look forward to being part of this project. We appreciate the Agency's leadership in this effort to strengthen the health information infrastructure of Northwest Florida, which will assist us in fulfilling our mission to the residents of these areas.

Sincerely,

Atulely of the state of the stat

Alfred G. Stubblefield

President/CEO



April 26, 2007

Lisa Rawlins, Director Florida Center for Health Information and Policy Analysis Agency for Health Care Administration 2727 Mahan Drive, MS #16 Tallahassee, FL 32308

Dear Ms. Rawlins:

We are pleased to submit this letter confirming our support from the Community Health Informatics Organization for the Agency for Health Care Administration's application to the Federal Communications Commission for funding of costs to deploy a regional dedicated broadband health care network. Our organization is honored to be a part of the state's effort to partner with other state agencies and with the private sector on a federal funding opportunity that will extend vital telecommunications and information services to rural hospitals, clinics, and physicians.

Providing broadband connectivity to support telemedicine services will allow rural hospitals to communicate electronically with providers in urban centers, transfer medical documents, and extend their capabilities to fully participate in the developing Florida Health Information Network.

I am pleased to commit the resources of my organization to advise the project and encourage wider provider adoption of broadband information services, along with a consortium made up of representatives from the Agency for Health Care Administration, the Governor's Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development Rural Economic Development Initiative, Children's Medical Services, the Office of Rural Health in the Department of Health, Florida State University College of Medicine, MyFloridaNet in the Department of Management Services, the Florida Hospital Association, the Florida Medical Association, North Florida Medical Centers, Federally Qualified Health Centers, the Community Health Informatics Organization, the Big Bend Regional Health Information Organization and Florida LambdaRail.



Lisa Rawlins, Director
Florida Center for Health Information and Policy Analysis
FCC Proposal Letter of Support
Page 2 April 26, 2007

We believe telemedicine will play a central role in the transformation of health care through the adoption of health information technology. The ability of video teleconferencing services to reduce geographical barriers to diagnosis and treatment parallels the development of health information exchange networks that will deliver medical records in privacy via a secure network in a timely manner. By coming together to interconnect Florida's rural hospitals, our consortium is taking a first step toward helping all Floridians benefit from the development of telecommunication networks enabling more effective delivery of health care services.

We are committed to serving as a key partner in the project described in the application from the application that will be submitted by the Agency and the provider consortium. The development and implementation experience of our organization gained over many years is a strong addition to our multi-stakeholder collaboration and will help to achieve a successful project with a sustainable outcome.

In 2006 our organization implemented and is operating a community based telemedicine/telehealth program that generates, collects and stores medical data in support of the data exchange programs in the Florida Health Information Network initiative. As the deployment of the regional dedicated broadband health care network becomes operational our organization will expand the community services across the region to exchange and share medical data with heretofore inaccessible rural health care providers and patients.

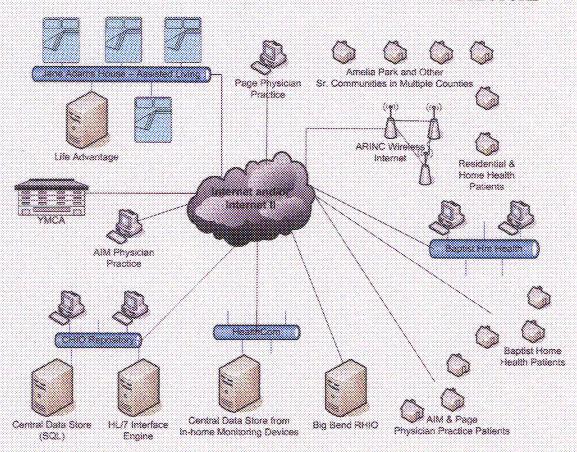
In collaboration with several competitive and non-competitive health care providers and together with the Florida State Agency for Health Care Administration we have implemented a unique program that will demonstrate the achievement of our objectives in the telemedicine program and include:

- Planning, deployment and evaluation of interoperable health information exchange in clinical settings and implementation of an information environment that crosses organizational boundaries;
- Increasing the number of practitioners that could use electronic health record systems and those who could participate in the health information exchange;
- Demonstrating that proven internet enabled technologies and patient care strategies can dramatically reduce the need for multiple healthcare provider readmissions, improve the quality of life in the senior population and facilitate successful aging-in-place;
- Applying the technologies and healthcare continuum to other population strata in other communities throughout the state.

Lisa Rawlins, Director
Plorida Center for Health Information and Policy Analysis
FCC Proposal Letter of Support
Page 3 — April 26, 2007

In addition to establishing the information and communications network capable of exchanging information we have been successful of integrating the capability of exchanging data between the healthcare providers through the exchange network depicted in the illustration below.

#### CHIO PROGRAM HIGH LEVEL NETWORK ARCHITECTURE



The illustration above shows the variety of health care providers and the network that will support the data interaction and use of the Internet in collecting, storing and sharing specific health data. This illustration represents a variation of

Lisa Rawlins, Director
Florida Center for Health Information and Policy Analysis
FCC Proposal Letter of Support
Page 4 April 26, 2007

In conjunction with and supported by other initiatives underway in the State of Florida our organization will be in a position to rapidly expand the exchange of information capabilities and increase utilization at the primary and acute care provider levels. Perhaps one of the most useful technology tools is the ability to provide care remotely and on-site in rural and inaccessible communities in an economical yet effective manner. Therefore, we are very enthusiastic that we can replicate and expand the service model demonstrated in the CHIO project to a much more far-reaching program across the State of Florida. We believe this service model, as part of the FCC Rural Telemedicine Program, could be utilized successfully across the entire State of Florida and eventually into other areas of North America through a build out of the broadband network as intended by the program.

We recognize that a successful FCC Rural Telemedicine Project will allow expansion of the telemedicine/telehealth technologies through the current health care initiatives in the 2007 programs being implemented by the Agency for Health Care Administration and virtually all of the members of the consortium.

Thank you for initiating this effort which will strengthen the information infrastructure of our rural communities and enable our organization to better fulfill its mission.

Sincerely,

James J. Tuchi

Project Director



Martha W. Barnwell

Vice President North Coastal Region Progress Energy Florida, Inc.

April 17, 2007

Lisa Rawlins, Bureau Chief Florida Center for Health Information and Policy Analysis Agency for Health Care Administration 2727 Mahan Drive, MS #16 Tallahassee, FL 32308

Dear Ms. Rawlins:

Please accept this letter as an expression of support from Progress Energy Florida for the Agency for Health Care Administration's application to the Federal Communications Commission for funding of costs to deploy a regional dedicated broadband health care network. Our company would be pleased to be a part of the state's effort to partner with other state agencies and with the private sector on a federal funding opportunity that will extend vital telecommunications and information services to rural hospitals, clinics and physicians. Providing broadband connectivity will allow rural hospitals to communicate electronically with providers in urban centers, transfer medical documents and will support their ability to fully participate in the developing Florida Health Information Network.

We recognize and support the work of a consortium comprised of representatives from the Agency for Health Care Administration; the Governor's Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development Rural Economic Development Initiative; Children's Medical Services; the Office of Rural Health in the Department of Health, Florida State University College of Medicine; MyFloridaNet in the Department of Management Services; the Florida Hospital Association; the Florida Medical Association; Florida Department of Elder Affairs; Opportunity Florida; Florida Great Northwest; The City of Port St. Joe; WorkForce Plus; Enterprise Florida; North Florida Medical Centers; Federally Qualified Health Centers; the Community Health Informatics Organization; the Big Bend Regional Health Information Organization; and the Florida LambdaRail. Progress Energy is supportive of the objectives of the consortium to advise the project and to encourage wider provider adoption of broadband information services.

"Telemedicine" could very well play a central role in the transformation of health care through health information technology. The ability of video teleconferencing services to reduce geographical barriers to diagnosis and treatment parallels the development of health information exchange networks that will deliver medical records in a secure, timely manner. By coming together to interconnect Florida's rural hospitals, this is a strong first step toward helping all Floridians benefit from the development of telecommunication-based health care.

4359 S.E. Maricamp Road Ocala, FL 34471 We are committed to serving as a partner in the project that will result from the application being submitted by the Agency and the provider consortium. The experience of our organization is a strong addition to our multi-stakeholder collaboration and will help to achieve a sustainable outcome. Progress Energy is one of the largest investorowned utilities in the State of Florida and proudly serves many rural areas of the state and the residents that this program will benefit.

Thank you for initiating this effort which will strengthen the information infrastructure of our rural communities and enable the consortium to better fulfill its mission.

Sincerely,

Martha W. Barnwell

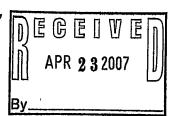
Vice President, North Coastal Region

**Progress Energy** 



Charlie Crist Governor Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H. Secretary of Health

Wednesday, April 18, 2007



Lisa Rawlins, Bureau Chief Florida Center for Health Information and Policy Analysis Agency for Health Care Administration 2727 Mahan Drive, MS #16 Tallahassee, FL 32308

Dear Ms. Rawlins:

Please accept this letter as an expression of support from the Florida Department of Health, Division of Children's Medical Services, for the Agency for Health Care Administration's application to the Federal Communications Commission for funding of costs to deploy a regional dedicated broadband health care network. Our organization is pleased to be a part of the state's effort to partner with other state agencies and with the private sector on a federal funding opportunity that will extend vital telecommunications and information services to rural hospitals, clinics, and physicians. Providing broadband connectivity will allow rural hospitals to communicate electronically with providers in urban centers, transfer medical documents, and supports their ability to fully participate in the developing Florida Health Information Network.

I am pleased to commit the resources of my organization to advise the project and encourage wider provider adoption of broadband information services, along with a consortium made up of representatives from the Agency for Health Care Administration, the Governor's Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development Rural Economic Development Initiative, Children's Medical Services and the Office of Rural Health in the Department of Health, Florida State University College of Medicine, MyFloridaNet in the Department of Management Services, the Florida Hospital Association, the Florida Medical Association, Florida Department of Elder Affairs, Opportunity Florida, Florida Great Northwest, The City of Port St. Joe, WorkForce Plus, Enterprise Florida, North Florida Medical Centers, Federally Qualified Health Centers, the Community Health Informatics Organization, the Big Bend Regional Health Information Organization, Florida LambdaRail, and Progress Energy.

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Lisa Rawlins Page Two April 18, 2007

We are committed to serving as a key partner in the project that will result from the application being submitted by the Agency and the provider consortium. The experience of our organization is a strong addition to our multi-stakeholder collaboration and will help to achieve a sustainable outcome.

As you are aware, the State of Florida, Department of Health has two Divisions of Children's Medical Services (CMS). They are commonly referenced as the CMS Network and Related Programs (CMSN) and the CMS Prevention and Intervention (P&I) divisions. The CMSN division provides a variety of health care services to CMSN-enrolled children. The P&I division includes the Child Protection Team (CPT) program, which is statutorily required to provide multidisciplinary child abuse services. Both CMS divisions include a number of facilities in various locations throughout Florida. Both provide access to medical services to children with special health care needs and both have unique operational requirements and opportunities for participation. The common theme in the missions of both divisions is in the delivery of a variety of services to children with special health care needs or those alleged to be abused or neglected.

CMS has experience in the use of the video teleconferencing platform to deliver medical services to children. Examples of note include its use in support of our CPT program in the Gainesville region, whereby ten sites (including eight rural locations) have access to child abuse specialists. Another example would include the use of the platform to deliver endocrinology (diabetes) services from a specialist at the University of Florida to our CMSN office in Daytona Beach in association with the Florida Initiative in Telehealth and Education (FITE) program. Both programs have been operational for more than 5 years. Additionally, pilot efforts are underway to evaluate the capacity of this platform to deliver a host of other special medical services to children, including: cardiac; craniofacial; dermatology; genetics; neurology; nutrition; orthopedic; and pulmonary services.

For the CMSN program, it is suggested that you include provisions for a telemedicine system for a CMSN facility in North Florida. Since the CMSN offices are required to use State of Florida network services (as are most State health care facilities), this would provide eligible children at one of the rural hospitals involved during the first year of the grant access to a variety of physicians and services from CMSN facilities. It would also provide an opportunity to evaluate interoperability between a site on the state's network and sites on the proposed new AHCA Rural Broadband Network.

For the CMS P&I division, it is suggested that you include a telemedicine system for a P&I facility in North Florida. One option would be to create a CPT hub site that would be used to provide access to multidisciplinary child abuse evaluation services, which could include the evaluation of children removed from drug abuse environments. Either option can utilize the AHCA Rural Broadband Network and would provide children at one of the rural hospitals access to physicians and services from a CMS P&I program.

Lisa Rawlins Page Three April 18, 2007

Participation by both CMS divisions presents an opportunity to utilize and evaluate the capability of the proposed AHCA Rural Broadband Network to provide special health care services to children.

Thank you for initiating this effort which will strengthen the information infrastructure of our rural communities and enable our organization to better fulfill its mission.

Sincerely,

bseph J. Chiaro, M.D., FAAP,

Deputy Secretary

and Deputy State Health Officer

Children's Medical Services





5757 Plaza Drive, Suite 205 • Cypress, California 90630–5029 • ph 714.220.3440 • fx 714.220

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Lisa Rawlins, Director Florida Center for Health Information and Policy Analysis Agency for Health Care Administration 2727 Mahan Drive, MS #16 Tallahassee, FL 32308

Dear Ms. Rawlins:

Please accept this letter as an expression of support from National LambdaRail, Inc. for the Agency for Health Care Administration's application to the Federal Communications Commission for funding of costs to deploy a regional dedicated broadband health care network. Our organization, through its member, Florida LambdaRail, LLC is pleased to provide the national component of the broadband connectivity that will allow rural hospitals throughout Florida to communicate electronically with providers all over the United States enabling your program to deliver health care to patients regardless of geographic location by actively participating in an evolving nationwide healthcare delivery network.

I am pleased to commit to providing access to the national network resources of National LambdaRail, via Florida LambdaRail, to your project during the life of the pilot program. Telemedicine will play a central role in the transformation of health care and ability to use advanced network services to reduce geographical barriers to diagnosis and treatment is a critical tool in making this happen.

We are committed to serving as a key participant, via Florida LambdaRail's partnership in this project that will result from the application being submitted by the Agency and the provider consortium.

Thank you for initiating this effort that will strengthen health care for and the information infrastructure of our rural communities.

Thomas W. West

CEO, National LambdaRail, Inc.

cc: Larry Conrad, J. Philip Halstead



Florida's Research and Education Network

 Phillip Halstead, Ph.D. Chief Executive Officer Phil.Halstead@firnet.org

March 26, 2007

Ms. Lisa Rawlins, Bureau Chief State Center for Health Statistics Agency for Health Care Administration 2727 Mahan Drive, MS #16 Tallahassee, FL 32308

Dear Ms. Rawlins:

This letter commits Florida LambdaRail, LLC, (FLR) with its 1,540 mile state-spanning and nationally / globally-connected high-speed fiber optic network, as a team member in the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) proposal to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to fund a health care broadband network to serve some of Florida's most distressed rural areas.

As a not-for-profit corporation that is owned and operated by a consortium of ten public and private universities, FLR's mission of research, education, and economic development aligns with the objectives of the FCC's Rural Health Care Initiative. Capabilities provided by FLR include but are not limited to: (1) bandwidth and enhanced network capabilities, (2) connectivity to National LambdaRail, Internet2, regional optical networks of other states, global networks, and commercial Internet Service Providers, (3) connectivity to medical schools and health care institutions in Florida, across the nation, and around the world, and (4) support for collaboration and advanced communication among participants.

We are excited to be a part of this public-private collaborative effort to obtain FCC funding for rural health improvements to include: (1) sustainable telecommunications and information services to rural hospitals, clinics, and physicians, (2) use of video teleconferencing to reduce geographical barriers to diagnosis and treatment, (3) enabling rural hospitals to communicate electronically with providers in urban centers, (4) health information and medical records exchange in a secure and timely manner, (5) rural participation in the Florida Health Information Network, and (6) application of multifaceted Health information technologies to transform rural health care.

We believe the multi-disciplinary team assembled and led by AHCA includes the capabilities that are needed to succeed in this rural health care challenge and stand ready to participate upon the award of funding. Please do not to hesitate to call me at 850.694.1502 if there are any questions.

Sincerely,

J. Phillip Halstead

J. Phillip Halstead, Ph.D.

Florida LambdaRail, LLC 2509 Barrington Circle, Suite 107, Tallahassee, FL 32308-6801 Phone 850.385.0348 Fax 850.385-0379 www.flrnet.org



STATE OF FLORIDA

### Office of the Governor

THE CAPITOL TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0001

> www.flgov.com 850-488-7146 850-487-0801 fax April 23, 2007

Lisa Rawlins, Bureau Chief State Center for Health Statistics Agency for Health Care Administration 2727 Mahan Drive, MS #16 Tallahassee, FL 32308

Re: Rural Health Care Broadband Access Proposal

Dear Ms. Rawlins:

As Coordinator of Florida's Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) and a part of the Governor's Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development (OTTED) I am writing to assure you and your Agency that REDI enthusiastically supports your efforts to obtain funding from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to extend vital broadband access to rural hospitals, clinics, and physicians with the above referenced grant application. Broadband connectivity will enable these providers to communicate more effectively with healthcare providers in urban centers, transfer medical documents, and fully participate in the developing Florida Health Information Network.

REDI is a proactive effort involving more than twenty state and regional agencies and organizations that help rural communities resolve issues affecting their community and economic viability. We have been pleased to work with your agency in the development of the application and look forward to finding additional ways to support and enhance the implementation of the program should it be funded by the FCC.

OTTED and REDI have a long history of working with rural hospitals and the Rural Health Networks throughout the state to ensure Floridians living in rural areas have the best local healthcare possible. We will continue to do so.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this project which has such great potential to benefit the health of Florida's rural communities.

Sincerely,

Mary Helen Blakeslee, Chief Analyst and Rural Economic Development Initiative

Coordinator

CC/ADS





March 27, 2007

Ms. Lisa Rawlins, Bureau Chief State Center for Health Statistics Agency for Health Care Administration 2727 Mahan Drive, MS #16 Tallahassee, FL 32308

Dear Ms. Rawlins:

Please accept this letter as an expression of support from Enterprise Florida. Inc. for the Agency for Health Care Administration's application to the Federal Communications Commission to fund the deployment of a regional dedicated broadband health care network.

I am pleased to encourage wider provider adoption of broadband information services, along with Governor Charlie Crist and the Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI). REDI is a proactive effort involving more than twenty state and regional agencies and organizations that help resolve issues affecting community and economic viability in Florida's 32 rural counties.

Telemedicine could very well play a central role in the transformation of health care through health information technology. The ability of video teleconferencing services to reduce geographical barriers to diagnosis and treatment parallels the development of health information exchange networks that will deliver medical records in a secure, timely manner. By coming together to interconnect Florida's rural hospitals, our coalition is taking a first step toward helping all Floridians benefit from the development of telecommunication-based health care.

Thank you for initiating this effort which will strengthen the information infrastructure of our rural communities and enable our organization to better fulfill its mission.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Rohrlack, Jr., CEcD

Senior Vice President

Business Retention and Recruitment



Governor Charlie Crist, Chairman • Thomas G. Kuntz, Vice Chairman •

John A. Adams, Jr., President & CEO



An Association of Hospitals & Health Systems

May 3, 2007

Dr. Andrew Agwunobi Secretary Agency for Health Care Administration 2727 Mahan Drive, MS #16 Tallahassee, FL 32308

Dear Dr. Agwunobi:

The Florida Hospital Association supports the efforts of the Agency for Health Care Administration in applying for the Federal Communications Commission Grant funding to deploy a regional broadband rural health care network. Rural hospitals in Florida are an integral part of the healthcare delivery system, and their continued success is imperative for achieving access to healthcare services for Florida's rural residents. The benefits of this grant funding to Florida are numerous, and we agree to continue our support of this effort.

The Association looks forward to continuing a successful collaborative relationship with the Agency for Health Care Administration as we strive to expand the availability of technology to rural health providers.

Sincerely,

Wayne NeSmith

President

WNab

c: / Kathy Holzer

Lisa Rawlins, Bureau Chief, Florida Center for Health Information and Policy Analysis

Patrick Minimutton, M.D., M.B.A., President Karl M. Altenburger, M.D., President-Elect

Steven R. West, M.D., Vice President Vincent A. DeGennaro, M.D., Secretary James B. Dolan, M.D., Treasurer Madelyn E. Butler, M.D., Speaker Alan B. Pillersdorf, M.D., Vice Speaker Troy M. Tippett, M.D., Imm. Past President

Sandra B. Mortham, EVP & CEO



# FLORIDA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION,

INC.

P.O. Box 10269 \* Tallahassee, Florida \* 32302 \* 123 S. Adams St. \* 32301 (850) 224-6496 \* (850) 222-8827-FAX \* Internet Address: www.fmaonline.org

May 1, 2007

Lisa Rawlins, Director Florida Center for Health Information and Policy Analysis Agency For Health Care Administration 2727 Mahan Drive, MS #16 Tallahassee, Florida 32308

Dear Ms. Rawlins:

It is my pleasure to write in support of the Agency for Health Care Administration's application to the Federal Communications Commission for funding to assist in the development of a broadband health care network.

Florida's rural counties face many challenges with access to health care and information. This endeavor will extend vital information and services to rural hospitals and clinics and enhance the ability of rural medical practitioners to receive and share information with practitioners in the areas to which they refer. By allowing rural areas the opportunity to participate in telemedicine and video teleconferencing, geographical barriers to the delivery of care can be reduced.

Several Florida Medical Association (FMA) staff and members have attended workshops for the grant and will continue their involvement in the project. The FMA is committed to promoting access to quality health care for all Floridians and believes this project will advance this goal. Therefore, the Florida Medical Association intends to be a key partner in the project.

On behalf of the members of the FMA and all the patients they serve, thank you for initiating this effort.

Sincerely,

Sandra B. Mortham

EVP/CEO